

SECRET CONTROL U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY

11 July 1946

Country: Germany

Subject: Museum Collections Removed to the U.S.S.R.

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1. The most valuable objects of the museums of Berlin were stored in the anti-aircraft tower Zoo. Prior to the arrival of the British and Americans, the Russians shipped these pieces to Karlshorst or to Russia. The same applies to the objects belonging to the museums in the American sector of Berlin. The second wave of removal of museum collections stated in the middle of December 1945, and ended at the end of April 1946. During this time, the Russians cleaned out the cellars and storerooms of the museums situated in their zone, with the exception of German art objects (especially sculptures) and paintings. In the case of stone monuments, the lighter-weight upper part was shipped, while the lower heavy base structure was left behind.
2. Other objects which had been taken from the museums to different safe places in Berlin were either removed or placed under seal. A number of valuable objects are undoubtedly still lying buried under the debris in the Central Tower in Friedrichshagen. However, nothing definite is known about these places, since the Russians, contrary to a prior agreement, have examined them without calling in German experts.
3. As to the storage places situated outside Berlin, but within the Russian Zone, the situation, judging by incoming reports, is a rather unfavorable one. Half of these collections must be considered lost through war damage and subsequent looting. Although it has been impossible to check these places, it has been reported that only a few escaped damage.
4. Following is a partial list of removals from Berlin:
 - a. ~~Numismatic Collection~~ The very extensive collection of ancient, medieval, and modern coins, probably one of the largest in existence, has been removed, together with the German coin collection. Unimportant parts of the collection, such as paper money, seals, and stamps, were left untouched. Of the numismatics only the most valuable are said to have been taken. The very complete reference library was removed entirely, as well as all inventories.

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- b. East Asiatic Art Collections Almost the entire collection except ceramics and paintings.
- c. German (for War and Dehnenachichte) (Museum of pre-history and early recorded history): All essential items have been taken away; among them are to be especially mentioned all gold objects, such as the treasure of Priam (Troy), the excavation objects of Eberswalde, as well as the skeletons of the home monasteriums and of the home curignacensis. Objects found during excavations in Germany, Scandinavia, Northern Italy (Lombardy), and northeastern Europe. Such individual items as four hatchets from Troy; a dagger-axe from Schmeckwitz; bronze trumpets (Luzen) from Doberkow; a sword-axe and from Butenstein; armor and helmet from Berniola; glass goblet from Mettersheim.
- d. Photograph Record Archives All cylinders of recordings of music of Germany and from abroad. Libraries of the Schloss museum and of the Indisch-Asiatische Abteilung removed; likewise sections from the library of the Museum für Völkerkunde (Museum of Ethnology), and parts of the Kunstbibliothek.
- e. Collection of Antiquities About 1500 ancient sculptures, i.e., the entire section, including the seated goddess and the standing goddess and all other famous pieces (Praying Boy). The large and the small frieze of the Pergamon altar; about one hundred sculptures from Pergamon; all Magnesia sculptures, except three. All the movable architectural parts which had been on exhibition and the first set of ornaments from the storehouses (Olympia, Samos, Priene, Miletus, Didyma, Pergamon, Magnesia, Bullbek). About 8,000 pieces listed under miscellaneous, among them the Amphiarus crater; about 9,000 gems; about 2,000 glass gems; about 6,500 terracottas, among them the first set from Samarra.
- f. Egyptian Department The grave of Ketan, the best reliefs from Abusir; the best reliefs from the "Weltkammer" in Abusir; stelae from the Middle Empire; gravestones and reliefs of the Middle Empire, from Memphis; Mastaba Stela; sarcophagi of the late period, numerous statues. The (Fundbücher) books of Medinet Habu and the manuscript of the excavation catalogue (by Anthes), both belonging to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, have been carried off and perhaps destroyed.
- g. Schlossmuseum From the Berlin Castle; the silver sideboard from the Hall of the Knights, and other large decorative silver works; all tapestries; most of the paintings and many pieces of furniture (which were kept during the war in Potsdam castles). The library of the Schlossmuseum.
- h. Collection of Sculptures Over 100 cases, containing mainly Italian sculptures of marble, bronze, clay, and wood; also many uncrated pieces, stones, furniture, etc. The chief part of the exhibition collection of the Byzantine Department; all Coptic and Byzantine materials. Very valuable

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single objects: Luca della Robbia, lunette with Madonna; Andrea della Robbia, Naked Boy; Giovanni della Robbia, Lamentation for Christ; Benozetto da Milano, large Madonna in sitting position; Francesco di Giorgio, Madonna with Bird; Sperandio Mantovano, bust of a jurist of Bologna; bust of Lorenzo the Magnificent; Giovanni da Bologna, Neosus and Delianira; Deshayes, Cupid cutting an arch; Meunier, bust of the composer Gluck; Pigalle, Mars and Venus; three mourning women from Mittelbiberach.

- i. Collection of Engravings 50 boxes containing all the illustrated books of the 19th century, mainly German books, and a considerable part of the collection of French illustrated books of the 18th century. Collection of German graphic art from 1550 to 1800. Michelangelo, sketch for the grave of Julius II; Ortnwald, sketch for the Isenheim altar; Botticelli, illustrations for Dante's Divine Comedy (one or two of seven folders); Veit Stoss, large design for the Bamberg altar (from the Academy of Science of Cracow.)
- j. East Asiatic Collection More than 30 Assyrian reliefs; alabaster charter from Kar Tukuliti Nimrta; a complete collection of seal disks; the best bronzes.
- k. Islamic Department All wood carvings; the collection of calligraphic samples (not published) and book bindings, cloth remnants from graves; a considerable number of Indian miniatures; many Persian and Turkish tiles, ceramic vessels, etc.
- l. Persian Collection The greater part of the collection.
- m. National Gallery About 200 excellent and about 100 second-rate paintings; approximately 70 sculptures; the Schinkel Museum and the Benth collections.
- n. Picture Gallery Several hundred second- and third-rate paintings; nearly all old frames, including those of famous pictures which are now under American jurisdiction.
- o. State Art Library 56 boxes with books.
- p. Museum of Ethnology Several hundred Turfan frescoes; unusually large pieces of all departments which could not be created; the entire Indian and Asiatic library, parts of other library collections, chosen arbitrarily; 242 boxes with the best Persian items.
- q. Museum of Ethnology. Babylon About 50 trucks containing all the objects which had been left in the museum at the time the collections were sent to the west, among them the best North American items.
- r. Museum for Dutch and Balkan Cupboards, chests, different wooden utensils (especially textile utensils), parts of costumes, etc.

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4. Staatliche Bildatlas: Taken from a mine in Bernburg approximately 50,000 negatives, also approximately 7,000 negatives of drawings from the collection of engravings, to be used for a catalogue which is in preparation. The complete set of photographs of the Staatliche Bildatlas, removed from Frankfurt.
5. Gallery Mathiasen (one of the most important art dealers in Germany): The entire voluminous library of the history of art and a few works of art which were stored on an estate in Mecklenburg.
5. Removals from Potsdam: The shipping of objects from the castles continues. Some time ago the custodian of one was arrested and all objects of art removed during his absence. No record was kept of what had been taken.
6. From Dresden the following have been removed: The contents of the Historical Museum (from the fortress of Mönigstein), the famous Green Vault and the famous gallery. Out of about 2,800 pictures, only 600 are left. Many pieces removed from the collection of engravings.

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